Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03013 111324Z

43
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAJ-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 /111 W
---------- 121239
O 111130Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3743

S E C R E T SEOUL 3013

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR KS KN
SUBJECT: HELICOPTER INCIDENT

REF: A STATE 097590; B SEOUL 3008;
C SEOUL 2920

1. REGRET DEPARTMENT DID NOT RECEIVE ADEQUATE DISTRIBUTION CINUNC MESSAGES ON HELICOPTER INCIDENT AND PRESS GUIDANCE. WE HAD REQUESTED ALL MESSAGES BE SENT TO DEPARTMENT AND WERE ASSURED THIS WOULD BE DONE. IN CASE PRESS GUIDANCE WE CLEARED MESSAGE AND SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT STATE BE INCLUDED AS ADDRESSEE BUT THIS WAS NOT DONE. PURPOSE REF B WAS TO INSURE FURTHER THAT DEPARTMENT FULLY INFORMED.

2. AS INDICATED REF B FACTS OF INCIDENT ARE SUBSTANTIALLY AS REPORTED IN EUSA OPREPS 191024Z MAY 74 AND EUSA OPREP 091314Z. ADDITIONAL FACTS HAVE NOW BEEN DEVELOPED, HOWEVER. TWO HELICOPTERS INVOLVED HAD BEEN FLYING IN AREA FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR PRIOR TO TAKING TRACK INDICATED PARA H4A, EUSA OPREP 091314Z. HELICOPTERS WERE OVER LAND SOUTH OF DMZ AT ALL TIMES. HOWEVER, WHEN FIRED UPON THEY WERE IN AREA PRESUMABLY CONSIDERED SENSITIVE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SEOUL 03013 111324Z

BY NORTH KOREANS. INCIDENT TOOK PLACE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

IN HAN ESTUARY AREA WHERE BOUNDARY IS IN EFFECT RIVER
ITSELF AND BOTH SIDES IN CLOSE PROXIMITY. AT TIME OF
FIRING HELICOPTERS WERE FLYING SOUTH OF RIVER BANK IN DIRECTION OF
NORTH KOREAN GUN EMPLACEMENT WHICH FIRST OPENED FIRE. ACTUALLY
ONGOING INVESTIGATION NOW INDICATES THAT ROUND WHICH
AG-IG HELICOPTER TOOK WAS SOVIET/CHINESE 7.62 MM FIRED
FROM A SECOND NORTH KOREAN GUN EMPLACEMENT LOCATED IN
NORTHERN PORTION OF DMZ.

3. ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS REF A ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. ALL REPORTS CONFIRM HELICOPTERS AT NO TIME
LEFT ROK AIRSPACE.

B. HELICOPTER MISSION WAS FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE IN WHICH THE
HELICOPTERS WERE EMPLOYING NAP OF THE EARTH TACTICS, USING
TERRAIN FEATURES TO MASK MOVEMENT, AND IN CONJUNTION THEY
WERE CONDUCTING ROUTINE RECONNAISSANCE OF THE AREA.
CONTRARY TO DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING, 8TH ARMY
CONDUCTS FREQUENT FLIGHTS ALONG DMZ IN I CORPS (ROK/US)
GROUP AREA FOR WHICH I CORPS HAD ARMY AVIATION RESPONSIBILITY.
THESE FLIGHTS ARE CONDUCTED FOR TRAINING, RECONNAISSANCE,
AND GENERAL SUPPORT PURPOSES. ALONG ENTIRE I CORPS
SECTION OF DMZ 8TH ARMY PILOTS AVERAGE SIXTEEN FLIGHTS
PER DAY. THREE FLIGHTS WERE FLOWN DURING APRIL IN
AREA NORTH OF NEWLY ESTABLISHED NO FLY LINE,
(SEE PARA 4 BELOW).

C. AS INDICATED REF C, MAC MEETING WAS CALLED BY
OTHER SIDE AND MAY 14 DATE WAS SET UP SOME TIME BEFORE
INCIDENT. REF B WHICH CROSSED REF A OUTLINES OUR PLANS
FOR MEETING. IN ADDITION TO GENERAL CHARGE OF
UNWARRANTED HOSTILE ACTION WE NOW ALSO PLAN CHARGE NORTH
WITH FIRING FROM GUN EMPLACEMENT ILLICITLY LOCATED
WITHIN DMZ.

4. TO AVOID FUTURE INCIDENTS IN THIS SENSITIVE AREA, UNC HAS
NOW ISSUED NOTAM TO EIGHT ARMY PILOTS ESTABLISHING NO FLY LINE
THAT WILL RESTRICT ENTRANCE IN THIS SENSITIVE AREA.

SECRET

SECRET

5. WE HAVE ASKED COMUSK TO BE SURE DEPARTMENT LISTED
AS INFO ADDRESSEE ON ALL MESSAGES REPORTING ON INVESTIGATION.
HABIB

SECRET

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HELICOPTERS, MILITARY EXERCISES, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL03013
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740116-0145
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740555/aaaabwov.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A STATE 097590; B SEOUL 3008;
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HELICOPTER INCIDENT
TAGS: MARR, KS, KN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005